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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

REPORT NO. [redacted] 25X1A

CD NO.

COUNTRY	Germany (Russian Zone)	DATE DISTR.	30 August 1951
SUBJECT	Reed Manufacture at the Metallweberei, Neustadt/Orla (VVB Tewa)	NO. OF PAGES	3
25X1C			
PLACE ACQUIRED	[redacted]	NO. OF ENCLS. (LISTED BELOW)	
DATE OF INFO.	[redacted]	SUPPLEMENT TO REPORT NO.	25X1A [redacted]

[redacted]

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25X1A 1. [redacted] the following seven steps as the essential ones in reed manufacture:

a. Calculating and setting the binding machines.

b. Cleaning the reed material.

c. Binding.

d. Coiling and inserting the springs.

e. Fixing and soldering the binding-wire and half-round wire.

f. Grinding.

g. Checking the spacing of the lamellae bands, and for the presence of tin between the lamellae.

2. As of mid-June 1951 there was no one at the Metallweberei Neustadt/Orla (VVB Tewa) who could perform the calculating and setting processes expertly or who could service the machines, nor was there anyone in the Drahtwebstuhlbau, Neustadt, who could do so. This situation has not yet been felt because the machines are still running on the calculations and settings made before the recent loss of qualified personnel. But real difficulty will begin when the settings must be changed for reeds of different caliber. As things now stand, there seem to be only two possibilities left to continue production: either to set the machines by trial and error, which is time-consuming and produces uncertain results, or to find an engineer who could work out a method.

3. The cleaning of the reed material is not a difficult operation and is carried out by grinders or spring workers, as they are available for this work.

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4. As of mid-June, the soldering was hampered because the only two members of the crew who could repair faulty reeds had to spend a considerable portion of their time keeping the reeds in the looms in working order although they were primarily solderers. Frequently, entire days had to be spent in the weaving section by either one or both of these men. Bands must be replaced in some reeds after only a few days' service. In many cases, reeds in operation must be refitted, necessitating repassing the wire through th m (umstecken). This refitting requires two or more days. Since May, refittings have averaged two or three a week.

5. At the present time, of the two East-Zone plants making reeds, only the Tewa plant in Neustadt makes No. 231 (Soviet No. 212) reeds; the other, the Drahtwebstuhlbau, makes only Nos. 60 and 80, used for weaving rough (sic; coarse?) metal cloth. The Tewa plant is operating three reed machines, one of which was transferred from the Drahtwebstuhlbau, Neustadt, with reed-binder Frau Dochner. Source has estimated that since the first part of May, sixteen No. 231 reeds have been made. His estimation is based on the following facts:

a. Reeds are apparently given serial numbers in their manufacture;

b. According to a reliable source, reed No. 162 was in operation on 12 May; and

c. According to Source's information, reed No. 178 was in manufacture on 12 June.

The Russians requested a flat 50 reeds per month, but the Tewa administration has named 36 as the maximum number possible.

25X1A 6. [redacted] three points must be taken into consideration in connection with the production of the sixteen reeds:

a. During the period from early May to 12 June, work was stopped for one week because of the lack of spring-steel wire.

b. Three of the reeds produced were unusable and condemned because tin had run between the lamellae, an accident which had never before occurred in the Tewa plant.

c. Four or five of the reeds had to undergo additional work to be made serviceable.

25X1A 7. [redacted] the Tewa plant, in its present state, provided all material were available uninterruptedly, could put out 25 to 30 No. 231 reeds a month if every member of the crew worked earnestly.* The low output is said to be due to disorganization caused by lack of personnel, to temporary lack of spring-steel wire, to permanent lack of experts and the use of insufficiently-trained personnel in their stead, and to the increased time expended on repair work. Even for this low output, the reed plant operates in three shifts per weekday and one shift two Sundays a month.

8. As a temporary measure for the replacement of reeds, the authorities have ordered that the best reeds be selected from among those of reparations order No. 805020 delivered to the USSR by the Drahtwebstuhlbau and returned by the Russians. Even as a makeshift, these reeds are not adequate because such a small number can actually serve only for a short period. From the end of May on, Baderschneider und Lenzner, Zeulenroda, called the Tewa plant almost daily, urging delivery of reed replacements, without which they would be obliged to withdraw looms from production. At the Tewa plant, the average life of a reed in mid-June was between 150 and 200 meters of screen. Some reeds lasted for 300 meters, others for less than 150.

9. Interruption of deliveries of spring-steel wire from West-Germany caused a lack of this wire, which stopped operations for a week. These deliveries were temporarily replaced by the use of spring-steel wire of rougher (sic; coarser) calibers which had been sent to the C. J. Vogel plant in Berlin for refinement to a thickness of 0.053-0.054 mm. This substitution, however, is merely a temporary solution, because there is only a small supply of wire of this type.

10. The supply of half-round wire coming from West-German firms, among which is the Thiess firm** in Hohenlimburg near Hagen, Westphalia, has suffered the same fate as that of spring-steel wire. As a temporary measure, the Tewa plant borrowed some 2.00 x 0.75-mm. to 2.00 x 1.00-mm. wire from the Drahtwebstuhlbau, which, itself, has only a limited supply.

11. Materials for the side bands (Schlussbunde) of the reeds have stopped coming from West-Germany and a substitute has been ordered. The Tewa plant no longer has a reserve of bright-drawn iron (blankgezogenes Eisen) for these bands.
25X1A For a reason unknown [redacted] brass band rails (Bundschienen) no longer arrive from the Kupfer-und Messingwerke in Hettstadt. The Tewa reed plant has been ordered to use band rails made from black sheet iron (Schwarzblech), but it is not believed that this material will work for reeds.

12. There is also a shortage of tungsten resistance wire needed for soldering-hammers. The plant has succeeded in obtaining some from Berlin for its immediate needs.

13. On 25 May 1951, a delivery of 75 kg.*** of Russian reed band steel was received from Berlin, and as of 12 June no further shipment had arrived. This steel was of better quality than previous shipments of Russian steel in that it was better adapted for soldering, less wavy, of more exact dimensions, and polished, whereas previous shipments had been mainly of corrosive steel. The quality is still far below from the standard required to make reeds which measure up to the severe specifications of the Russians, since the bands of some of the reeds made from this steel need replacing after a few days' use. Palilov has reportedly stated that the Russian steel will continue to improve until it is of the desired standard.

14. The irreplaceability of reeds is naturally a very serious threat to screen production and when those reeds now in operation become unserviceable, the situation will be disastrous. Source is not informed on the present screen output at the Tewa plant in Neustadt, but believes that quality has deteriorated and waste has increased since April. The watch-device formerly used to indicate the percentage of reject screen has been removed, indicating that satisfactory results could not be determined by its use. Palilov, who appears almost daily at the Tewa, Neustadt plant, is known to have criticized the plant managers for not attaining the imposed production quota.

15. Operation of a reed machine for binding No. 400 reeds was discontinued in the middle of May.

16. Of its four machines, the Drahtwebstuhlbau has two in operation for the manufacture of rougher (sic; coarser?) reeds; one is out of operation; one has been transferred to the Tewa plant in Neustadt.

25X1A [redacted] Comment: Two other qualified sources consider this figure purely theoretical and claim that the maximum output was reached in the sixteen mentioned above.

25X1A [redacted] Comment: Not identified. This is probably a misspelling for the firm of Friedrich Gustav Theis in Hohenlimburg, which manufactures wire. 25X1A

25X1A [redacted] Comment: It could not be determined whether this 75 kg. of steel is part of or in addition to the 152 kg. reported in [redacted]
25X1A as having arrived in Berlin. It is believed to be additional from the fact that Tewa had an unspecified supply of Russian band steel.

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